

CLERK: Mr. President, on 442 the first item I have...I have no E & R amendments. I do have amendments from Senator Remmers and Senator Peterson. Those amendments are found on page 1733 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Remmers, will you handle the amendment?

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the amendment that I have allows licensed practical nurses to serve as ambulance attendants, only during routine, nonemergency transfers. Repeat, only during routine, nonemergency transfers, that you have many of those in the smaller hospitals. The amendment is in response to a problem we have at the hospital in Auburn, and also in all small hospitals. A large number of ambulance runs at rural hospitals are nonemergency transfers. Many ambulance attendants are volunteers, and it is often difficult to find volunteers to take off from their jobs to make these routine transfers. I originally introduced LB 76 this year to address this problem. The amendment proposed here is the Health and Human Service Committee amendment to LB 76. LB 76 came out of committee without any dissenting votes, but it is buried too deep on General File to get anywhere this year. But it is still a very important issue for the small hospitals. I want to make it clear that this does not change the scope of the practice for LPNs that is in the law today. It does not change that scope of practice. There are provisions in here to provide for the supervision of the LPNs by MDs or RNs. So no change in the scope of practice for LPNs is needed. This amendment will allow rural hospitals, it will allow rural hospitals the flexibility they need. This does not in any way change the thrust of LB 442. I would encourage the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the adoption of the amendment? Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support this amendment, as Senator Remmers has adequately, I think, explained the amendment. It has to do with the Nebraska Hospital Association, and at the present time ambulance, ambulances can be staffed by either registered nurses or emergency medical technicians. We feel that in emergency situations there is need for one...these classification of health professionals on board an ambulance. This amendment does